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Cattle Numbers Fall as Prices Remain High

Agri-News

The total number of cattle and calves in Tennessee on January 1, 2005, was 2.17 million head, 2 percent below last year's total of 2.21 million and the lowest since 2001. This information is based on a recent cattle survey conducted by USDA's Tennessee Agricultural Statistics. Debra Kenerson, State Director, remarked, "Record level beef cattle prices throughout the year resulted in increased marketings and helped fuel Tennessee sales. Although inventory numbers for cows and calves dropped from a year ago, replacement heifer numbers rose as producers look to rebuild their breeding stock." Results of the survey showed the following breakout of inventory on January 1, 2005, with comparison to last year: **Beef cows** totaled 1.08 million, down 2 percent; **Milk cow** numbers were 72,000, down 6 percent; **Calves under 500 pounds** were 520,000, down 7 percent; and **Steers and other heifers** weighing 500 pounds and over, at 190,000 head, were up 9 percent. Tennessee's 2004 **Calf crop** decreased 4 percent from 2003 to 1.02 million head.

U.S. January 1 Cattle Inventory Up 1 Percent

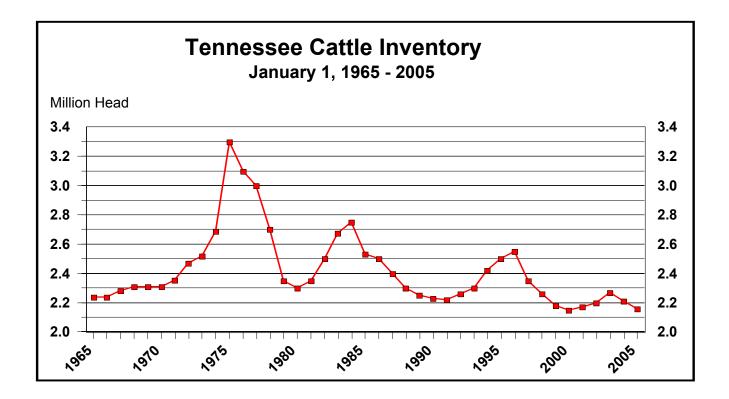
All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1, 2004. Beef cows, at 33.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2004, and milk cows, at 9.01 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2004.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2005, and the change from January 1, 2004, are as follows: **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, up 2 percent; **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.75 million, up 4 percent; **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.13 million, up 3 percent; **Other heifers**, 9.79 million, down slightly; **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, up 1 percent; **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, up 1 percent; **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, up 1 percent; **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.7 million, down slightly. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds**, and other heifers and steers over **500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 27.9 million, up 2 percent. The **2004 calf crop** was estimated at 37.6 million head, down 1 percent from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, down 1 percent from 2003.

Cattle and Calves: Number on Farms by Class, Tennessee and U.S., January 1, 2004-2005

	Tennessee			United States			
Class							
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004 1	2005	2005/2004	
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent	
All Cattle and Calves	2,210	2,170	98	94,888	95,848	101	
All Cows That Have Calved	1,180	1,150	97	41,851	42,060	101	
Beef	1,103	1,078	98	32,861	33,055	101	
Milk	77	72	94	8,990	9,055	100	
Heifers, 500 pounds plus	285	310	109	19,344	19,672	102	
Beef Replacement	185	195	105	5,518	5,746	104	
Milk Replacement	35	40	114	4,020	4,133	103	
Other	65	75	115	9,806	9,793	100	
Steers, 500 pounds plus	110	115	105	16,277	16,511	101	
Bulls, 500 pounds plus	75	75	100	2,206	2,219	101	
Calves, under 500 pounds	560	520	93	15,210	15,385	101	
Calf Crop ²	1,060	1,020	96	37,903	37,625	99	
Cattle on Feed	5	5	100	13,813	13,749	100	

¹ Revised. ² Calves born during previous 12 months.



Tennessee Ranks Second in Meat Goats Sheep Inventory Up 5 Percent

The total number of **meat goats** in Tennessee on January 1, 2005, was 98,000 head, while **milk goats** totaled 6,200 head. Tennessee ranks second in the nation in number of meat goats and seventeenth in milk goats. The total number of **sheep and lambs** in the State on January 1, 2005, was 23,000, 5 percent above last year's total of 22,000 head. Breeding inventory, at 20,000 head, remained constant with last year, while market inventory increased 1,000 to 3,000 head for 2005. Tennessee's 2004 lamb crop also remained unchanged from 2003 at 15,000 head.

U.S. January Sheep and Goat Inventory

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990. The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. All goat inventory in the United States on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.1 million head and market goats totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, meat and all other goats totaled 1.97 million head, milk goats totaled 283,500 head, and angora goats totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 kid crop was 1.67 million head for all goats.

Sheep and Lambs: Number on Farms by Class, Tennessee and U.S., January 1, 2004 -2005

	Tennessee			United States		
Class						
	2004	2005	2005/2004	2004	2005	2005/2004
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
All Sheep and Lamb	22.0	23.0	105	6,105.0	6,135.0	100
Total Breeding	20.0	20.0	100	4,499.0	4,533.0	101
Ewes, One Yr. & Older	14.0	14.0	100	3,609.5	3,572.5	99
Rams, One Yr. & Older	1.5	1.5	100	188.0	190.0	101
Replacement Lambs	4.5	4.5	100	701.5	770.5	110
Total Market	2.0	3.0	150	1,606.0	1,602.0	100
Market Lambs	1.8	2.8	156	1,540.4	1,527.9	99
Market Sheep	0.2	0.2	100	65.6	74.1	113
Lamp Crop ¹	15.0	15.0	100	4,140.0	4,096.0	99
Sheep Shorn	16.0	16.0	100	5,074.0	5,073.0	100

¹ Lambs and kids born during previous 12 months.